

HEAVEN'S METAL

VOLUME II

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Featuring:

ETERNAL RYTE



ETERNAL RYTE

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23)
"Eternal Ryte is the right to be called sons of God, that was given to us by Jesus Christ when He died on the cross," says Eternal Ryte vocalist, Phil. "We're sharing the message that everybody has that eternal right if they choose to give their life to Jesus Christ. They will be given that right by Jesus Christ, by His resurrection power."

This is one hot band from L.A. that has their hearts in the right place: God's will. Eternal Ryte is taking a bite out of the L.A. metal scene, which for so long has bred death, sex and drugs.

"Our sound is not real hard, not death-metal sounding," says Phil. "We try to make it sound more pleasing to the ear with an edge to it. It's melodic and more along the lines of Dokken or Loudness."

"Out here in the L.A. club scene," says Bob the guitarist, "the par for the course is about nine out of ten bands sound the same. A main goal, musically, is we don't want to sound like every other band. We strive to have our own sound. I think, for the most part, we accomplish that."

****How heavy is your metal?**

"About four pounds," jokes Phil. Their demo tape promises a bright future. They have that "we've got expensive amplifiers"-type sound.

Eternal Ryte is a close-knit group. They get together every Monday for fellowship outside the music.

"We get together and pray and have Bible studies," says Phil. "I think that is mainly what helps to retain the attitude that, 'God's using us and we should be grateful for that. It's nothing that we've done. We're just thankful that He's able to use us in this way.' It helps us to really grow together and check up on each other. I think that kinda keeps our heads straight."

I had an opportunity to talk to them one Monday night for the following interview. Keep in mind that their manager, Larry, has a Darth Vader telephone. It will give you a good perspective on all their answers when you realize that all the questions I asked came out of a 12-inch statue of Darth Vader.

****What is your goal?**

"Our goal is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through our music," answers Phil. "Our goal is to see souls saved and to reach the kids who've been neglected by the church, because of the way they look or because the kids don't want to come into church. We're taking the gospel to the streets the way the Lord did."

****Would you say your audience is a non-Christian audience or do you have some ministry to the body too?**

"We have songs that minister to the body," continues Phil, "but our basic goal is to reach the lost. We are very encouraged when we see a lot of unsaved people in our audience because it's a great opportunity to share the gospel."

****What are your lyrics like?**

"Very straightforward. Sometimes maybe some people may think it's too straightforward. They're very straight-to-the-point: Basically the fact that the world is

in sin and in rebellion and that they need Jesus Christ. Apart from Him, all there is is turmoil, sorrow and death. With Him is eternal life.

"We've got a song called **He's A Killer**. The lyrics are pretty much straightforward about how Satan is a deceptive liar. The first verse goes: 'He's like a roaring lion now, but don't hear his lies/he'll bring you down. He comes to steal to kill, destroy your soul. So stand in God and hold your ground.' Because he knows that he can't do you harm if he knows that you stand in Him—in Jesus Christ."

****How did you guys come together?**

"Basically, John felt a calling for the ministry," relates Bobby "Transformer" Smith. He left Larry's old band, **Final Hour**. (The same Larry who now manages them.) He felt the need to speak through heavy metal to go to clubs. Like the passage says, 'go.'"

John, the bassist, just left to obey his calling as a pastor. He's been replaced by Mike Grato. A lot of people falsely assume that whenever a player leaves that he's backslidden. Not true. Read 1 Corinthians 13:7.

"He got in contact with me," continues Bob, "and I accepted the Lord. Not because of it, but I did. Then the Lord put me in the ministry and it went from there. I guess John had met Mike. It fell together within a week. The Lord just totally blew me away. Saving me and just knowing that He was...Him."

"We had a singer before Phil. That wasn't right. We prayed about that and had to let him go. Then the Lord provided Phil. Phil was with a number of bands before that. None of that was working out for him. He just called his old band up and asked 'em not to be in the band. The Lord just worked everything out. This was in February of '85."

****How long have you all been playing?**

Phil tells us that "Mike has probably been in music longer than any of us. Bobby's been playing lead guitar for about six years and I've been singing for about eight years now."

****Where do you guys play mostly?**

"We play as far out as they'll let us play, but right now I would say more of our shows are in the Southern California area. I guess the local L.A. club scene."

"The Lord took us out of the club scene for awhile to let us go into churches, so we could more or less get a grasp of really what the ministry's about. He's put us back in clubs where we're really needed."

"I'd like to add something to that," says Mike the drummer. "One thing that's been real exciting is, for awhile we played several churches, and it was neat to see some of the same faces that were in the clubs. In the church situation it's a little bit more open as far as giving an altar call, that type of thing. Really offering them a chance to hear some real in-depth on Jesus."

****What's the L.A. metal scene like now?**

"It's getting really big again," says Bob. "It was dead for awhile. All the good bands got signed. There was a bunch of young guys trying to be just like the guys that got signed. The record companies didn't want any more because they already had the originals. Right now it's getting really big again. There are a lot of young bands that are coming up. There's more interest in it, so there's more kids coming back out to hear the music again. That way it's giving us a bigger opportunity to share with 'em."

****What's your typical audience response?**

"Really good," says Mike. "They catch on to the songs real fast and most of the folks end up singing along."

****Do you ever feel like you get lost in the exterior stuff? Like clothes, methods of playing, styles and all that?**

"Sometimes we really do start going 'Wow! We wanna look really cool,' but the Lord has a way of putting us on track before it gets too far. I can't say, 'Nah. We don't worry about that,'" admits Phil, "because we do. We're very concerned that kids receive us well so we can share the gospel. Sometimes it is possible to get a little too concerned, but then the Lord has a way of getting it all back in order again. So far there's not been any major problems with that. Praise God."

"From the beginning, when this ministry started," says Mike, "our motto all along has been: 'There's no compromise. Period!' Meaning we don't compromise in our message, what we're sharing. We don't compromise from the musical standpoint of puttin' on a show. It's the whole package that they get, so it is important. We are picky about what we look like when we play just because they're gettin' the whole thing. Especially when we're out competing with secular bands. When we're out there and we're preaching the gospel, we need to be a step ahead of 'em. We need even better. We're going out there representing God. We need to be that much better."

"I've been working with the band since day one of the band," says Larry. "I've never met a more humble band and yet put on such a live show. It's one of the best shows I've ever seen. Like Mike said, it comes with the package: the hair, the makeup, the look. It's there, but I've never met a more humble bunch of guys that are in that position. It is so easy for Christian bands of any type, especially heavy metal, to retain their position that God wants them to retain. They are ministers and they do have a message to preach, but the exterior is just a vehicle, but they always have retained the proper perspective of who they are and what their goal is." (See Galatians 2:26)

"All the stuff that we use on stage," says Bob, "as far as what we wear and how we look and what we do to our hair; when we leave that stage, it all stays there. We don't take that off and wear it around the streets either. When we're offstage, we're not anything like what we are onstage." That's why Bob is called "Bobby Transformer Smith." His hair is normally straight and he wears glasses.

Their shows are 45 to 50 minutes in length and grabs you from the start. It's moving and it doesn't stop all the way 'till the very end.

"We try to keep our audiences guessing by doing something new every show. We have a different look. I don't think we've ever done more than two shows where we've done the same thing."

"Our last show," says Bob, "we opened with the theme music from *Get Smart*. It went over really good, because right from the beginning of our show—we like to have a lot of fun with our shows. I mean if we're not having a good time up there, why should anyone else be having a good time?—people knew they were gonna have a good time. It just put 'em in the right mood, I think. When we started playing, they were right with us from the start."

****What's your biggest burden?**

"To see kids come to the Lord," says Phil. "Not just to accept the Lord, but to see them grow into mature Christians."

****How can the Heaven's Metal reader pray for you guys?**

"That the Lord would just open greater doors to give us a greater chance for us to share the gospel. Not only for us, but that He would just open the market for Christian metal out here. This is where a lot of the record company headquarters are. I know that they are hearing a lot of rustling around from Christian bands and some of them are interested, but they're kinda skeptical about taking a chance. Pray that the Lord would open their eyes—even from a secular viewpoint: Hey! This will be marketable. That they will give it a chance. That the Lord will allow it to be shot over the airwaves. The Lord is opening the doors because these are the last days. He's gonna have a great outpouring of His Spirit."

"They could also pray that we would really have a chance to share with the other bands that we play with," says Bob. "We play mostly with secular bands. I'd like to see the Lord blow that ministry wide open. That's a ministry in itself: backstage."

"Also there's a lot of Christian bands that compete. Pray that they would unite, because we're all doing the same thing. That they would uplift one another and pray for one another and that we wouldn't compete or talk about each other."

If you'd like to get: their cool t-shirts with Romans 6:23 quoted on the back and their logo on the front; their bumper stickers; photos or their demo tape, write to Eternal Ryte: P.O. Box 3613, San Dimas, CA 91773.

—APOSTLE—

Apostle has been recording in Rez Band's Tone Zone Studios. They are a loud and proud metal group. Their lyrics and their music will definitely have an impact. Some of the guys in Rez are currently shopping their demo around to secular record companies. Look for an interview and more news on Apostle in the near future.

—ECHO STAR—

Echo Star is a real hot band from Huntington Beach, California. Look for more news on them as well.

—Rejoice!—

Carlos Vasquez, my good and faithful friend and brother in Christ, has received information that the lead singer for Exodus, Paul, has gotten saved! All the angels are rejoicing! (Luke 15:7) Exodus, contrary to what their name may indicate, are not a Christian band. Their album covers and lyrics stand in rebellion to God. Let's pray that Paul would be discipled well and that the remaining members would also hunger for God!



"When I write an article on Trytan," said I, "I'll use descriptive words like 'totally incredible.'"

"You know," said Ezekiel Vade, "that really wouldn't be an exaggeration at all."

How's that for an intro? Trytan is one hot band. They sound more like Rush than Rush does. They rock hard, clear and heavy. Enough hype, let's hear an interview with guitarist, vocalist and leader of the group, Iary Dean. This is part of a conversation Iary had with Bob Hopkins, our correspondent from Chicago.

"To do a real brief cap on what happened when I got saved," says Iary. "I was involved with music and a student of mine took his own life and it kinda messed me up for awhile. I was looking for something to fill that emptiness that I knew he must've felt and I felt as a result of all that. A friend told me about Jesus and His love and when I looked at the cross and I beheld the Savior I said 'I want Him to be my Savior' and then He took about a year to get me to surrender my whole life to Him and He became Lord of my life, my marriage and my music. Then my friends and I, my partners in the music, started to take a new direction with our music and start to take on a responsibility of ministering to young people with music and we went through quite a few changes with personnel because of that direction too."

"Sometimes in ministry you're gonna find that happening, where people run the other way when you're serving Jesus. It's clear to anyone, who knew us when we were rockin' for the world, that we're rockin' for Jesus now. You can't be elbow to elbow with people who are not, because otherwise it just drags you down. That's why we've had to cut off our relationships with people. It was gonna be an infection to our ministry, not that they're not still our friends, but it's just the way it happens. There's no fellowship with light and darkness. Light and darkness cannot have the same motive and that is to see young people come to know the truth about themselves and the life that is in Christ."

Trytan's name stands for **To Reach Youths Through The Almighty Nazarene**, which is what they want to do.

*What are you looking for in record companies and distribution? What kind of special mission has God called you to?

"I want our Christian brothers and sisters to understand that we feel that God is leading us to the unsaved. Our plan is to get totally linked with, and we are linked with, a church and an outreach program that's already established and be in submission to leadership, just like the Bible says in

Hebrews, you know, when everyone is watching out for everyone. We wanna get involved with an outreach program that's set up and working for Jesus so we can stem out of that into the secular territories of record distribution, secular concerts, secular media: rock magazines, local newspapers and stuff. Like Stryper and many other groups have started to do: just infiltrate those mediums with the gospel and the message in a way that the kids can appreciate and understand it and it penetrates their hearts.

"Billy Graham cannot go to Kerrang! magazine and do an article. The kids won't even read it. But if some cat like Michael Sweet, with long hair and a Jackson guitar hanging from his shoulder, they're gonna listen to this guy and what he's doing with his life. They're gonna receive the fact that he is a musician and he's doing it for Jesus—and the Holy Spirit can take it from there."

"That's pretty much what we'd like to do. We'd like to be able to reach more musicians than just audience-orientated listeners. More people that are artists. People who were fans of music, like in the late 70's, like: Kansas, Rush, Genesis and Yes. Very musician-orientated music, because there's not a whole lot of ministry going in that direction. We'd like to pioneer that field."

*Have you received any responses from the record companies?

"We are kind of apprehensive with that and we're just kinda praying for guidance and we have a pastor that is working with us and counseling us, because we want to penetrate the secular field, but we would like to do it without getting locked into secular management. We pray for this. If possible, we would like to have Christian management and a Christian record label pick us up and kind of take us under their wing and get us into a secular-type distribution, something like Word/Myrrh did with Amy Grant on A&M. We realize that we have to trust in the Lord to provide us with the people. We don't even know who they are yet. We're just now starting to meet people."

"We submitted demos to secular record companies and we've gotten some response. Some are interested. We haven't done a whole lot, since the demo got done in July. It's a complete album project. We're waiting from the Lord to give us the green light to go ahead and to shop these tapes to all those secular labels, 'cause we don't wanna do anything unless He says, 'it's okay.'"

*Explain some of the controversy you guys face either from Christians or the secular people that you deal with. How do you respond to that and what do you say to people?

"You're gonna always have that. Jesus was in the midst of controversy everywhere He went from every group that He ever spent time with. Even the disciples were always trying to figure out, you know, 'Where's He coming from?'"

"We have felt that too. Not only from people who couldn't understand the change of direction and the fact that we were playing music for Christ now and that we were Christians and that we want to do something with our music other than glorify ourselves. There's been a good share of that, where people can't understand that. Why we're not rockin' for the world and the drugs and the girls."

"There's also been Christians that have wondered about, you know, your people that are real plugged-in to Swaggert and people like that just don't go along with rock music. I can

appreciate where they're coming from, but it's music and I think God wants us to use wisdom to reach people.

"I don't think we do anything that's demeaning. We don't wear makeup, not that that's demeaning Stryper, but we are trying to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit. We're trying to represent God in a market and in a form of communication that is going to be very effective and still be holy and faithful representatives of the Lord Jesus at the same time. There is a fine line and we're gonna make mistakes—just like Amy Grant and Stryper and every other Christian artist that's out there. We're bound to make mistakes and to fall, but that's why God has given us His grace and His Son, so we learn by our mistakes and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit—especially being in a limelight-type of situation. You've got thousands and thousands of people watching you, so you really have to be sensitive to those people by being sensitive to the Holy Spirit, because you don't wanna stumble people and you don't wanna draw people to yourself. You wanna draw people to Jesus through the music that He's given and the tools that He's given.

"I heard a guy at one of the secular labels we talked to and he said something that makes sense: 'There's nothing wrong with being a good-looking person and to use what God's given as a tool to move the message.' There's nothing wrong with that as long as it's not contrary to anything the Bible says: 'To where you're going off the wall and half naked, you know, where your face has pin-stripes on it and stuff like that. If God tells you to do that, you better do it, but we're trying to be sensitive and watch what we do.'

"We've caught some heat about how much we sound like Rush. It's had many positive aspects. There were more positive comments about the Rush-likeness than there were negative. Although there have been record companies in the past that have heard us that said, 'Well, you sound too much like Rush,' and shut us down, but still didn't say we were garbage.

"The christian audience seems to like it because there's nothing out there that really is at a level like Rush. Rush is a very complex, very creative, imaginative group and we like to feel that we can be creative and imaginative and very complex **for the Lord** and bring His story and His message.

"As far as the qualities that Rush has that we have, I'd say the first factor being my voice, which the Lord gave it to me, so what can I say? I enjoy singing. We'll try to stay away from it as much as we think necessary. Geddy Lee's got a good voice, not to pat myself on the back, but I like his voice and I'm comfortable singing with the same type of style he has. That's just the way that my natural voice is. If he sold many records just for himself and his bank account, maybe we can sell records **for the Lord** with the same type of voice. We don't fear having that quality that Rush has, plus we want to use our drummer, Scotty Blackman, more singing because he has a very different voice than I do and our voices sound well in harmony together.

"We're trying to go away from a real progressive type of style, that Rush has. We're leaning more towards maybe a Stryper a la Rush-type of sound. Where it's still progressive and has a lot of chops in it, but is a little bit more straight-forward and more vocal orientated, like Stryper or Philadelphia or some of these other real hot groups.

"We're very open to expanding our sound. We would like to do some ballads if we could write some that wouldn't be 'run of the mill'-types.

"We'll be doing a lot more with the guitar synths. I guess we're doing kind of like a marketable, radio-type of metal. I'd say it's more in a metal category than anything else, but we like to use a lot of synths. It's kind of like a techno-radio metal, if that makes any sense. We don't wanna sell out. We wanna be appealing as far as what is selling today, but we still wanna establish our own original foreground and go with that—what we do well. Anything else is gonna be real shallow—where we'd probably do only one good album and that's all we'd be able to muster up. So, we've gotta do what we do good and that is: we are apt to play more progressive. The straight-forward style that we're moving to now is really meshing good with the progressive-type of approach that we've always had.

"The vocals are ever more coming up-front. With message music it's hard to avoid. A number-one priority for us and the tape we just did, the **Celestial Messenger** demo, those songs are really vocally-orientated—at least for us. Our other stuff has been like a half a minute of singing and six minutes of instrumental stuff, so it's coming a long way."

If you'd like to buy this tape, which could be the hottest thing happening right now, send \$4 to: North Star Productions, c/o Bob Hopkins, RR#1, Box 220, Mokena, IL 60448. "We'd be glad to have ya listening to us and praying for us," says Lary.

*How can the Heaven's Metal reader pray for ya?

"They can just pray that we would be drawn to study God's Word and to grow in our prayer life. That everyday that we're on the battlefield, that we'll be prayed-up and studied and really growing in our relationship with the Lord, so we can get all the battle plans from Him, because it's war. We wanna be plugged into the general and that's Jesus and that's all we really need. The enemy's gonna come against us, but if we're standing right next to Him and His heels, it'll be like Satan ramming his head into Christ Himself. That's what we want, so we can pull kids out of the fire."

Trytan is: Lary Dean on all guitars, vocals and keyboards; Steve Robinson on bass; Scotty Blackman on drums, percussion and vocals. Next issue we'll have a song-by-song explanation of the lyrics by Lary about the demo tape.

GUITAR PICKS



Who do you think is the most skilled guitarist in Christian rock? Keep your picks coming in. Right now Oz Fox is in the lead. He's followed closely by: Dana Key of Degarmo and Key; Kerry Livgren of AD; David Zaffiro of Bloodgood; and Dan Huff, who's a "sessions man." He's done the hot guitar work on albums by Matthew Ward and Leslie Phillips.

BARRAN CROSS

METAL FOR THE KING

Bob Hopkins, our mid-west Heaven's Metal correspondent, interviewed Steve Whitaker and Jim La Verde of Barren Cross at The Cornerstone '86 Festival.

"It seems the secular world has really accepted us," says Steve. "God has put us in a really good position. We just recently had a battle of the bands competition put on by one of the biggest rock stations in L.A. We had a preliminary against two other bands and won that. We went to the finals. We didn't win, but the whole purpose: ministry took place. Kids asked a lot of questions afterwards and that was the whole purpose of the concert. They played us quite a bit on their local show and a lot of talk's been going around about us.

"The new album, as yet untitled, will be due out early next year. It is gonna be real hot. It is centered around issues. We deal with abortion, terrorism and stuff like that. We go into the studio on November first."

*How many albums do you guys have in your contract with Star Song?

"That's still in negotiation," says Steve. "It could be three, it could be five."

*Are you gonna be planning any major tours?

"What we've done is sent out feelers to the secular agencies and Christian bands. Basically whatever doors are opened. We're not limiting ourselves by saying 'We'll never play with a Christian band,' or 'we'll never play with a secular band.' It's wherever God leads us. It just seems like secular is opening up more and more all the time. It's obviously hard to do, as far as witnessing. You've just gotta be on top of things. We're excited about that."

"It's easy to get Christian kids to a Christian concert, but it's not easy to get secular kids to a Christian concert," says Jim. "If we're hitting more in-depth to the secular market, that way the kids will come to the secular market, because they're thinking 'secular band.'"

"Christian labeling is something I think definitely holds back a band that's trying to reach the secular kids," says Steve. "If you say to them 'Christian,' first of all, they're gonna listen to the tape with almost a blinker on their eyes. They're not going to listen to it openly, as if they'd went to the store and picked up an album and then listened to it. I think a Christian stigma attached to a band keeps secular kids from having an open mind."

*How can the Christian media best gear our work towards reaching the lost?

"I'd say by just keeping an open mind. I've heard some Christian radio stations literally say, 'This is Christian heavy metal, so be careful about letting your kids listen to it.' They're not quite sure if it's of God or if it's actually doing good. The facts are we have parents that come to our concerts now. They bring their kids and stay because they like to see their kids react to something of the Lord."

"We're definitely able to minister to parents too," says Jim. "because when you're able to minister to a kid, it ministers to the parent."

*Do you plan on doing a video?

"I hope so," says Steve. "There was talk of doing the title track of **Rock For The King**. It's gonna be a live video. Star

Song does want to do it, but now they're just concentrating on getting the record out there.

"Between **Rock For The King** and the material we have for the next album, the whole band is anxious to do more. We have matured more musically and spiritually, so our material will be more hard-hitting to the world. We could go ahead and go with that and have twice the drawing power to reach the world instead of just waiting and seeing what **Rock For The King** will do."

*How do you prepare for an album?

"Constant prayer," says Steve. "Just focusing our mind on the Lord."

"Number one," says Jim, "I think we take a lot of emphasis on what goes into the songs lyrically. We all have to agree on the lyrics and make sure that they're scriptural."

"Musically we all have our different tastes, but I believe that lyrically is where it counts. If you have good lyrics, the spirituality is gonna come out in the lyrics. Like **Give Your Life To Jesus**, Steve wrote that song and you know, it's very self-explaining."

"Mike Lee is gifted with lyrics," says Steve. "Especially heavy metal. He's the heavy metalhead of the band."

*What's your spiritual background?

"I've been a Christian for six years now," says Jim. "The longer you're a Christian, the more mature you're gonna be. I'm not saying that, 'just because you're more mature, you don't go through trials.' It's important when you're in a ministry like that that you have some time under your belt, because there's things that you come in contact with, as far as being in the heavy metal realm, that will knock you for a loop if you're not prepared for it."

"We've been knocked for a loop. I'll be the first one to admit that, because you're dealing with Satan directly. It's his turf."

"I was raised in a Baptist church, believe it or not," says Steve. "Through my high school years, I'd go to church on Sunday and fall asleep in the pew. I slowly drew myself away from that. My senior year I felt the Lord tugging at me. I've played the drums since I was three and I had a zeal just to meet some Christian friends. I had no one to fellowship with. That's basically how Barren Cross got started, a little over six years ago. I met the guitarist through a desire just to meet a Christian friend and fellowship musically. From there it ventured a little farther away from the Baptist point of view of music."

*Who do you like to listen to?

"I recently got married. My wife loves Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith. I like listening to Koinonia, a Christian jazz band. I've been listening to KYMS, our local station, and it's exciting for me. I've seen a lot of Christian music come around to the secular standards of quality. All my Christian friends used to say they can't listen to it because it's not good. They can't use that excuse anymore."

"For me I think it would be Dallas Holm," says Jim. "The guy just knocks me flat every time I listen to his music. Sandi Patti too. I think that she's really anointed by God. Just because we're heavy metal heads doesn't mean we don't listen to other types of music. I think the slower stuff really ministers to me more than, per say, you know, a heavy metal tune that's going and driving and driving. That's just

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SAINT

Saint has blessed us with another vinyl offering of music. It's called **Time's End**. I had a chance to talk to Richard Lynch, the bassist and spokesman for the group. The following interview gives us insight into the group's origins, their goals, philosophies and lyrics.

****How did Saint get started?**

"We got started back in 1982. Well, actually we got started back in 1977. John Mahan (the guitarist) and I had been working together. I was working with people like Leon Patillo and B.J. Thomas and, you know, all the big boys and doing some national tours and what have you.

"I noticed that there wasn't any heavy metal bands, with the exception of Rez Band. I thought that there was a need. I also saw that there weren't any, what I would consider, British-type heavy metal. To me, that's the only true heavy metal. The rest of it's all sissy rock. That's my personal opinion. There wasn't any of that at all going on.

"I just felt there was a need for it, especially with the rising of Judas Priest at that time. That's why our first album was so 'Priestly-influenced.' We figured, if we were gonna look at what's going on in the secular market, we might as well view some of the best bands out there. We felt that Priest was one of the best bands. We don't condone what they do, don't get me wrong, but technically speaking, they're an excellent group.

"Then, in '81 we formed a band called The Gentiles. We recorded the song **Abyss** and another song, called **Space Cruiser**, which is on our new record, and two others which we've never recorded and probably never will again.

"We got accepted by a few record companies. The ones like Timesmith snagged onto us right away, but we basically turned everybody down. We figured that the industry would provide us this and provide us that. It really didn't work that way. They didn't provide us nothin'. We had to provide everything ourselves. So that's why we went ahead and did the EP, **Warriors Of The Son**, ourselves and put it on the market. We felt like, 'Why spend the money and then just give it to somebody so they can make all kinds of money?'

"Unfortunately, we didn't have a whole lot of money to produce **Warriors Of The Son**. It was about a \$1,600 project. It didn't turn out bad considering the amount of money that was dumped into it.

"We had a drummer. His name was Jim Maxwell. He plays for the 77's and Darrell Mansfield now. He thought a lot the same way we did, but he got married and his wife didn't want him to come to practice and what have you. That was kind of a messy situation, so we found Gene McClendon, who, by the way, was 90% deaf. He's the guy who recorded on the record. He didn't work out because when we played live shows—we never played any live shows with him, fortunately—if he'd get lost, then we'd have to start the song over. Then we went and hired another drummer. His name was Nick Bead. He wasn't a Christian. He worked out for about three weeks. Then we got another drummer. His name was Mark Spell. He was a Christian. He toured with Randy Mathews' Band. He didn't work out because he wasn't metal minded. Then it was back to Mike Lowry again because he was convenient. Finally we fired Mike

Lowry and now we have a guy named Dean Santacros. He's a Christian and he's a metal head. He eats chains for breakfast—that type of guy.

"Gene knew Josh Kramer from his early days. He was in Alaska. I called Josh and he came down. He was originally the guitar player, before John Mahan. Josh has played guitar for 20 years and John's been playing for 22 years.

"John and I had split up from The Gentiles. We kinda saw things differently at that time. I was so used to John's playing and when Josh came in he didn't quite play as well as John did. He wasn't as vindictive as a guitarist. Not as vicious.

"Heavy metal is a very strong statement. It's a very aggressive music. You don't compare a heavy metal guitarist to a country and western guitarist. Technically, they're both very talented, but the guy that plays heavy metal sounds like he's gonna step all over the other guy and not even be as good as or any better.

John, who's 33, made up all the leads on the new album. On the **Warriors Of The Son** album, he showed up from San Jose and within a week he was in there playing the leads—and they were all jams. It was just all random-type stuff. It didn't turn out too bad, but it wasn't as worked out as this album. He's technically probably twice as good as when he played on the previous record. I think you'll be impressed with what he came up with.

"Some of the songs he had to kinda work out in the studio, like the song **Destroyers**—that's a jam—but it still sounded good. **Through You** is the most mellow song on there, but has the most radical lead.

****Are you guys mainly trying to reach the lost?**

"We're mainly trying to become a common ground for everybody in general. We really don't want to exclude our Christian friends who are starving for good, clean heavy metal. I know lots of Christian people who had to listen to Judas Priest and Iron Maiden or whatever to fulfill their musical satisfaction.

"Music's a very spiritual thing. You can't see it, you can't touch it. You can only hear it and it touches you inside. It's like words of wisdom, so to speak. It's something that boils within.

"These people, they needed to be satisfied and they were turning, myself included, to the world. I was listening to The Imperials and Leon Patillo and Rez Band and Degarmo and Key. None of these bands, although they're all fine bands and they're all doing really well, they weren't satisfying the need that I had for the particular type of music I grew up with. You know, growing up with Alice Cooper, Grand Funk, Deep Purple and Black Sabbath, these people (OCM bands) just didn't seem to cut it for me."

****What are some ways to reach the lost with your ministry? How can Saint break into the mainstream?**

"It's easy for us to break into the mainstream. If you haven't noticed, we don't have any 'Jesuses' in any of the lyrics in our songs. That makes it really easy to get airplay, because they don't automatically turn it off and go 'Oh no! Another Jesus song.'

"We do this so we can cause them to think. I prefer to cause somebody to think about what I'm telling them, rather than just coming right out and telling them. If I can get 'em

Cont'd on page 9



Tim Gaines has re-joined Stryper! "He's back with the band and stronger than ever," according to Daryn Hinton, who was once sent to a Stryper concert on a fact-finding mission to gather information to use against Christian rock music. The next day she was stuffing envelopes for Stryper, left her assistant pastor position and donated, I think \$40,000 to the band. God sure does work mightily, doesn't He?

Stryper needs our prayers that God would work mightily and victoriously for them. They are making outrageous and bold advances against the kingdom of darkness with their new album, **To Hell With The Devil**. Satan is not happy and seems to be fighting back. Let's rally around our brothers in prayer and destroy Satan's foul work against their ministry.

This attack on Satan, which we'll call an album, is due out in October. Everything from the music to the artwork is looking top-notch. We can't wait! The video is now out. You can order the VHS version (72137-3) or the Beta version (72137-5) by sending \$24.95 to Enigma Mailorder, Department S, P.O. Box 2428, El Segundo, CA 90245-1528.

7

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7

Wouldn't it be great to see Stryper proclaim the truth on a compilation album right alongside Judas Priest, Blue Oyster Cult, Accept and Ron Jovi? Well, this is a reality! K-Tel Records released **Metal Rage** in the Masters of Metal series. **The Rock That Makes Me Roll**, which Michael kept saying was their heaviest song on the last tour, is featured alongside these groups, as well as Helix, Y&T, Rush, Autograph and Twisted Sister. It's not a different version from what's on the **Soldiers Under Command** album, so I wouldn't recommend buying it, but just praising God for it.

Stryper is really making an impact now. They're pictured in lots of secular rock magazines.

For you band members that are called by God to rock, be encouraged by two things: First off, God called you. He's not going to revoke His calling. (Romans 11:29). Secondly, Robert shares some of the struggles Stryper has faced. "I'm so grateful right now for everything we have. I'm used to being a poor kid with no money and no car and nothing and playing in clubs. You know, where you had to have no road crew and set everything up and play three sets a night—for no money and go home totally exhausted and have to take money out of your pocket to pay for the truck, cause you have a lot of gear.

"I've just seen things happen in the last two years. I'm totally amazed!"

Now for a review of Stryper's new remixed **Yellow And Black Attack**. The album is definitely collectable for looks alone. I'm afraid the heavy metallers will not be excited about the remix. It's questionable if the EP needed remixing in the first place. Let's face it, the original production was totally hot! That sound put them deep in the hearts of headbangers everywhere. It was short on ballads and real long on metal.

The first notable change on the new mix is the drum tracks. The difference between the drumming on the old mix and the new mix is like the difference between a lion that hasn't eaten for three days out in the wild and a well-fed lion at the zoo. The drumming isn't as ferocious and urgent as it was when there was something for the band to prove.

The drumming is good. It shows the virtuosity of Robert on his snares, but we're not hearing enough of his double bass. I think we're hearing an improved Robert Sweet. His runs are more complicated and polished, but not real heavy.

The screaming intro into **Loud N' Clear** has an added guitar track in it that sounds like a real loose string being rubbed by a finger. It could be just another weird sound Oz can get with his guitar machine. The original versions of **Loud N' Clear**, **From Wrong To Right** and **C'mon Rock** are probably better than these versions, but **You Know What To Do** and **Loving You** show a pleasant improvement. **Loving You** has a real cool "flangerized" guitar sound on the opening chords right after the drum rolls and "Loving You" harmonies. The best surprise on the album, in my opinion, is **You Won't Be Lonely**. A finger trill is added to the melodic chords in the beginning and end of the song. They made the song a bit more melodic.

The one new song, **My Love I'll Always Show**, is a real gentle ballad accompanied by the acoustic guitar. Michael sang this with a track on the last leg of the Soldiers tour. (Probably because there's no drums or bass during the song.)

Reason For The Season sounds untouched. Another special treat on this album is that the lyrics are printed. Now we can decipher those hard to understand lines like: "We're rockin' for the Rock, and I know we'll never stop/ And we will never be ashamed."

This EP and the live video ought to keep us occupied until we all shout "To Hell With The Devil!"

—OMEGA—

For an update on the once-great band Omega, here's guitarist Mark Timm: "Well, I'm afraid I've some bad news for you, Omega split up about two months ago. Sad eh? The reason for us splitting up was that God have me such a clear and wonderful word. He told me to leave the band and wait on Him because He wants far greater things for me, like coming to the USA. I've been praying so much it's now clear what God wants me to do: come to the USA.

"I need a job in the USA to get a work permit to get a visa. It's a long process, but I'm waiting on God's time. I'm trying to get a job working in a Christian environment, so if you know anywhere I can write to, please let me know. Also I'll be looking for a band to play in. If you hear of any bands wanting a lead guitarist, get them to write to me. God bless you."

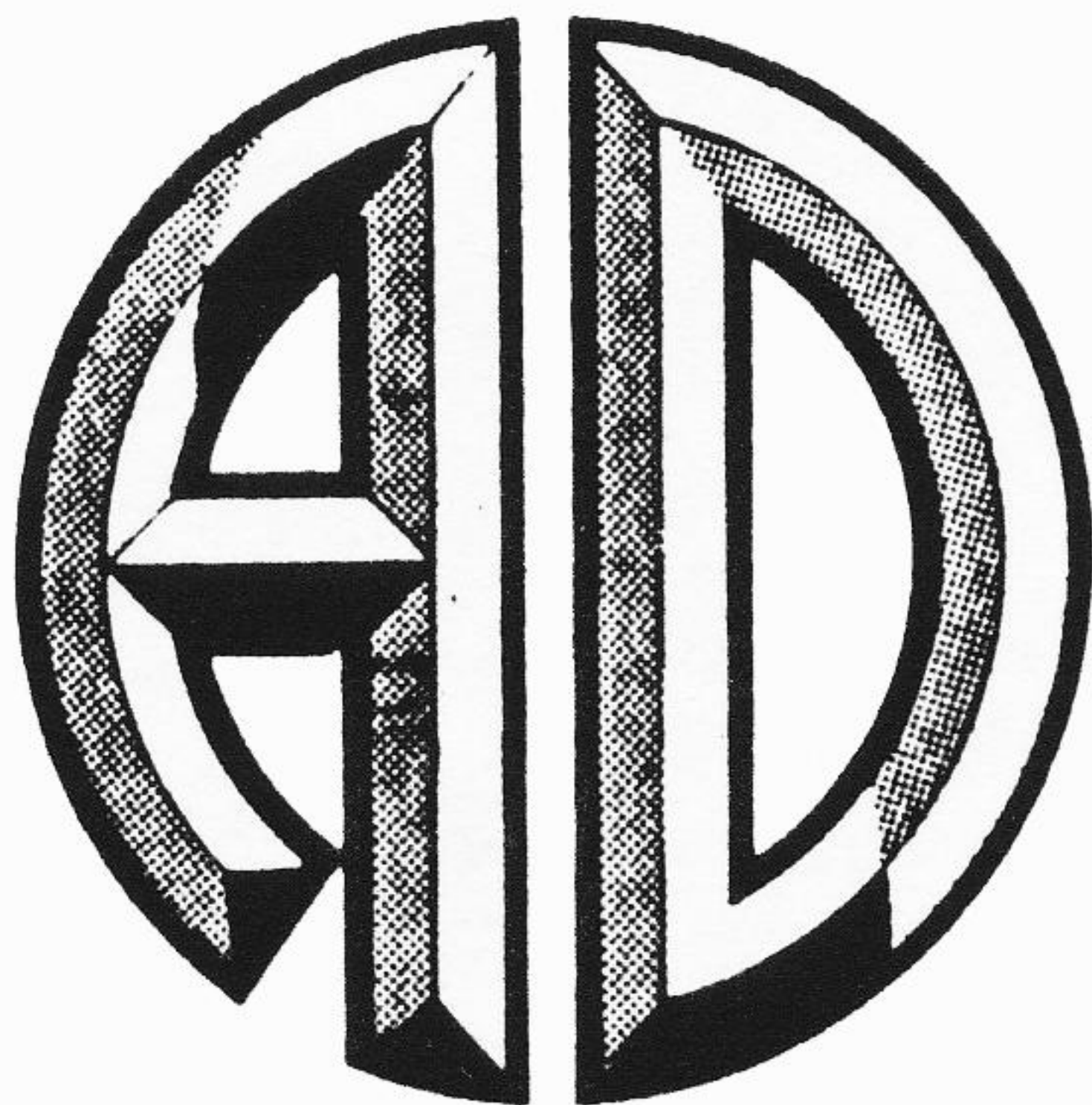
Write to Mark Timm @ 36 Broomhill Road, Bulwell, Nottingham, NG6 9GW, Nottingham (0602) 273368, England.

—FOLLOWER—

If you've looked for Follower's album, **Into The Sun**, and haven't found it, you can order it through the mail.

Send \$8 plus \$1.50 postage to Follower, c/o Kerry Crafton, P.O. Box 610093, Austin, TX 78761.

R E C O N S T R U C T I O N S



AD — **Reconstructions**, on Kerygma Records.

I was in The Ark Christian Bookstore (See, sell Heaven's Metal in your store and get a free plug!) listening to the demo tape of AD's new album, **Reconstructions**, and was being disappointed. I thought I might even like Petra's new album better than this one, but I still bought it.

On the way home I thought about my prediction in issue #4: that, "if AD released another album, it would receive my vote for best album of 1986." I started to feel bad because I thought "that's probably the last time I mention AD in Heaven's Metal."

But, during the trip home, something happened to the album. When I played it on the stereo, it came alive. I realized I was dead wrong about my preliminary judgment. This album deserves to be in Heaven's Metal more than any other AD project thus far.

Kerry Livgren has done the "artistic dance" again: he's taken the familiar (guitars, keyboards, drums and bass sounds) and created something new. He's gone where no one else has gone before. This is what the Star Trek Enterprise crew rocks out to whenever Spock goes to sleep.

It's fairly reminiscent of late Kansas—the Kansas that had a lot of electric guitar. (Audiovisions, for example, which has some of the best Christian rock songs: **Curtain Of Iron**, **No One Together**, **Hold On** and **Relentless**.)

Kansas is presently reforming with: Steve Walsh on vocals; Steve Morse, who has done guitar work on Rob Cassels' **Kamikaze Christian** album and who fronted the Dixie Dregs, on guitar; Phil Hart on drums; Rich Williams on guitar and Billy Greer on bass. Maybe Kerry is trying to outdo any of their efforts. I can't imagine the new Kansas sounding better than this album, especially without Kerry Livgren's creativity.

This album rocks. It's not really metal, but listen to the first song on side two: **We Draw The Line**. The intro features what sounds like blaring guitar licks played backwards. Once the song gets started, you know it's AD. The most prominent change on this album compared to **Timeline** and **Art Of The State** is the guitar sound on most of the bridges in each song. Warren Han did not contribute his sax, flute, keyboards and harmonica to this project, so it seems those spaces are

filled with guitar and more aggressive keyboards.

Dennis Holt does another terrific job on the drums. This must be a big change for him to play in AD. He has played with The Archers, Silverwind and Farrell & Farrell. He must feel exhilarated to be able to cut loose with AD's tight and complicated sound.

I can't really explain why my perceptions of this album changed from a sticky mass of pop to a hot rocker. All I can really say is, "it might happen to you too." Check it out, but don't expect metal.

—WHY—

Out of Thunder Bay in Ontario, Canada comes the band Why. Dennis Pringle plays the drums for this group, which he says sounds like a "sort of a blend of AC/DC, Scorpions and Judas Priest." They're going into a studio this month to lay down three or four tracks for a demo tape, which will hopefully help them get a record contract. With a name like Why, they have an opportunity to attract a lot of attention.

—Barren Cross cont'd—

the way the Lord made it. For somebody else it might be different."

*What would you like to say to the Heaven's Metal reader?

"Whatever their desire is, whether it's a musical instrument or preachin' or just ministering to kids, it's completely doing it for the Lord and not for yourself or your own glory or to satisfy yourself. It's a long process, but to be sold out strictly for the Lord. He can turn that around and lift you up to minister to even more people. It's just a constant struggle and pride's something that creeps in all the time. For me, it's something I have to deal with daily. It's a tool that Satan really uses."

In the next issue we'll hear more about Sanctuary, the heavy metal church that Jim is an associate pastor at in Wittier, California.

Saint cont'd:

to think about it, you know, they're gonna ponder it."

*It's higher quality thinking.

"Exactly. It's not gonna be a 'yeah, well I've heard that so many times.' You know? I just don't like the 'Jesus loves me this I know'-type thing. There's a lot of bands out there doing that and I think it's fine and I think it's needed. It's just not for us, you know, what we really feel led to do.

"We mainly feel that just to be a good clean heavy metal act and we'll have a chance to witness to these people and we can tell people what's on our minds and what's on our hearts through the songs and after the shows. We can at least sow a seed. That is gonna be effective in the end, because someone is going to come along and reap. We don't have to be the ones to go up there and reap. If you plant the garden, you don't expect it to grow up the same day and pick it.

"That's not to say that 'Rez Band didn't come along and plant it and we should maybe go out there and talk to these people as well.'

Saint cont'd again on page 17



This is (from l to r): Richard Conine, Randy Sanchez and Paul Mills (in the front row) and Bekah Crabb, Kemper Crabb, David Marshall, Steve Dady and Rusty Gibson (in the back row).

Arkangel reunites! (For one night.)

If Christian rock has ever had a legendary group, Arkangel would probably be it. The members of Arkangel would surely scoff at such an idea, but whenever you travel to the far side of the present day music scene and do something real different, you take the chance of becoming God's gift of music to a few of us strange folks.

Arkangel's music is original, but to give you an idea of their sound, think of Kansas, ELP, Rush and Jethro Tull wrapped into one with maybe a Led-Zeppelin power chord thrown in here and there.

Kemper Crabb tells us how, after he was born at an early age, the band got started: "At the time there were only four contemporary Christian records out. There were two underground Larry Norman albums, *The Everlasting Loving Jesus Music Revival* and *Upon This Rock* by Larry Norman. Ken Freeman and I said, 'We want to do this kind of stuff,' because we were doing lots of street witnessing and stuff. I just learned the songs off that album. Me and him were doing a duet and then Bekah was there one night. She sang nice harmonies and so we said, 'Neat. We can do it at church.'

"Ken's wife went to the bank and there was a Baptist lady there who said, 'Hey! We're having a singing festival. Do you know anybody that could sing?'

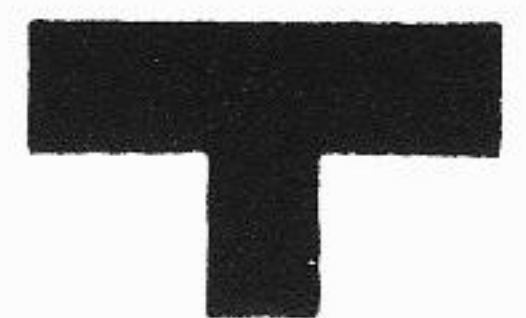
"She said, 'Oh! My husband's in a little group.' Of course then we weren't even a group. So, then we had to learn more songs so we could do a whole gig. We did and we got eight engagements off that. Eight different churches were there and came up and booked us.

"We got in with Rick and he learned how to play the bass and then we picked up a drummer and made a real crummy album. At that point in time, 1972, we were called *Redemption*. We toured around and we got different people in. Then we finally decided to have babies and finish school, so we moved to Houston."

GOD SPOKE AND THE WARRIOR AROSE

ARK ANGEL

IN CONCERT WITH
THE DENNIS WELCH BAND
AND SPECIAL GUEST
JIM GILL



"Because we were starving," interjects Bekah Crabb.

"We had gigs where people would come and ask you to come play," relates guitarist David Marshall, "and give you \$10. You know, you drive to New Mexico and you tell 'em, 'Hey,' you know, 'we're gonna need our expenses, because this is what we do.' They say, 'Oh man, the Lord is gonna provide.' It would be that bad."

"There was a heavy scene with the coffee houses, where we played a lot," says Kemper. "This point in time was about the time we met Randy, our drummer."

"David prophesied me into the band," says Randy. "Their drummer had flaked out on 'em and I was playing with Jim Tucker. I'd never heard these guys and I jammed at a revival and Dave heard it and liked it. I was getting ready to go on the road with Jim Tucker and Dave said, 'I'm gonna pray that God not let you go with Jim Tucker, but stay here and play with us.' Five seconds later the phone rang. It was Jim Tucker cancelling the tour."

"After we moved here we changed our name to Arkangel," continues Kemper. "Star Song became interested. Then we did that record and it came out and we did concerts and we couldn't get any gigs, so we kinda metamorphisied into nada land. Then a couple years later we made a video as Hero Squad. We did that because we determined at that point in time that we wanted to participate in the mainstream marketplace, you know, songs from a Christian perspective."

Now they are playing a new style of music (danceable-type stuff) under the name **Radio Halo**. So what brings Arkangel into Heaven's Metal?

David Marshall's adaptation of Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor alone would qualify this band as hard rock. This one-minute, 42-second solo is unmatched in all the Christian rock on vinyl to date.

Arkangel disintegrated primarily because they freaked out the Christian market. "I think that when the Arkangel album came out," says Kemper, "I don't think the Christian market was prepared for it or ready for it, even though we got critical raves and all that jazz. We even got some secular airplay in places."

"When we released it," says David, "we spent all our money on advertising and then the record distributor lost it in their warehouse. They started getting orders for it and they couldn't find it."

This was typical of the setbacks Arkangel faced in Christian rock's infancy. When asked if they sensed a "magic" about the music they were putting out then, Randy replied, "No. We felt a sense of impending doom."

Kemper said, "it helped our prayer lives immensely."

Add those comments to the fact that one of David's solos was erased in the studio and all of their unpaid gigs and you will understand why they inscribed "There is no change without tension" on the back of the album.

"When we recorded the stuff, 1977, I feel like we were even ahead of the secular marketplace," says Kemper. "By the time it got out, 1980, we were current. We were way ahead of the Christian game on the rock stuff. It's dated now though."

"I liked our music," says David Marshall, "but it's back there. I wouldn't mind playing it for a particular reason for a short period of time. I can't see us going back and trying to be that again, because that's just not where we're at."



David is busy here thrilling the metal crowd.

The reason Arkangel gigged together this time was to raise money for H.E.L.P. Services out of Houston. (Humble Evangelicals to Limit Poverty) The money will support the adoption of two babies who otherwise would've been aborted.

"It took something like this to dust off the old Arkangel gig," says Kemper.

The music was dynamite! The band liked doing it because they hadn't played it for six years and so they weren't bored with the material. The crowd went nuts after each song. They were yelling so loud that Randy couldn't hear his drums.

The group hit their peak at the song **Ark**, which had some searing, beautifully clear notes.

The next song, **Warrior**, had the celtic sounds of bagpipes. Andy White, who played the pipes on the **Warrior** album, came in the back door decked out in full Scottish dress playing the bagpipes. He got a standing ovation as he walked up on stage while the crowd sang along: "The Lord is a warrior, The Lord is mighty in battle."

Before the next song, **Morning's Anthem**, Kemper told us that "we were created to worship God" and that this was probably his favorite out of all the Arkangel songs. The song punches

Cont'd on page 12

TNK UPDATE

An article by Myke Connell

TNK, as seen in the last issue of Heaven's Metal, has broken up following my departure from the group. I left the band after seeking the Lord on some convictions I had and I felt a strong calling to ministry. I have a great desire to help bring kids to Christ and I will be studying youth ministry in Bible college. As for the other guys, they're already getting new groups together. I'll keep Doug posted on their progress.

As for TNK's dem, it is now available for retail sale. If you haven't yet ordered it, you may do so by writing Lightspeed Productions. (See ad this issue.)

Now that everybody is up to date on TNK. I've got some ideas, suggestions and scriptures that the Lord has shown me and I'd like to share them with Heaven's Metal readers. Christian heavy metal groups have been popping up everywhere and the music has become a very controversial issue. A lot of people will try to tell you that the music is evil and that it can't be used for good. Let's approach some common questions about music and see what God's Word has to say.

First of all, what is the purpose of music? God created music for the purpose of glorifying His name. He gave it to us to use in praising and worshipping Him. (See Psalms 96 & 98) This does not mean, however, that music cannot be used to entertain. If it is being used properly we will be entertained, because it is pleasant to praise the Lord. (Psalms 135:3) It is okay to entertain and be entertained, but that should not be our goal as Christian musicians. Your goal should be to please God (1 Thessalonians 4:1) and to seek His will. (Matthew 6:33)

The Bible tells us exactly how to use music, how it should be played, what the lyrics should say, and how it should be presented. We've already seen that we are to use music to praise God, but how should it be played? When writing music, seek the Lord through prayer and He will show you what is pleasing to Him. I think Philippians 4:8 pretty much sums up what your music should contain. Let the Holy Spirit guide you and not your own human desires and feelings. (See Proverbs 28:26) Let your music be divinely inspired.

God will let you know what is pleasing to Him and what is not. (See God's reaction to the Israelites' music in Amos 5:23) We should consider whether the music (not just the words) will please God and the effect it will have on the people. The music by itself has great power. Read Exodus 32:17,18 and 1 Samuel 16:23 and you'll see what I mean. Notice the effects the music had.

Now that we've got the basic idea of how the music should be, let's talk about how it should be presented (as in a live performance). Some of us are professional musicians, which is okay (Ecclesiastes 2:8), but we should still serve God through worship and praise in our music. I've already said your music should be God-inspired and not worldly-inspired. I cannot emphasize this enough. God never compromises and neither should we, with our music. Don't look to the secular bands for inspiration or try to copy their music. Look to Jesus for your inspiration. (See 1 John 2:15-17, Luke 9:23

and Colossians 3:16)

It is vitally important to reach out to our audience with the love of Jesus, but we should never lower ourselves to a worldly level to do so. (See 2 Corinthians 6:14-17) Remember, we are not of this world, (John 15:19), so we shouldn't be concerned about whether or not the audience approves of us. (Luke 6:26) The question should be: does God approve of us?

The Bible provides definite guidelines for us to follow in our music ministries. It even tells us how to dress on stage. (Romans 12:1,2) If we become too worldly in our music and our appearance, the result will be conflict. (Galatians 5:17) Beware of worldly temptations. (1 Thessalonians 5:22) Follow Jesus and your ministry will be blessed.

One more thing I would like to say is to everybody who listens to Christian music of any kind: Before you buy a Christian album, make sure it is really Christian. (1 John 4:1,2) Make sure the songs do praise God and that they are doctrinally correct according to His Word. Heed the warnings the Bible gives us of false prophets. (2 Peter 2:1-4, 2 Corinthians 11:13-14 & Jude 1:18-21) Pray before you shop for an album to see if God approves of it.

I think Doug does an excellent job of reviewing albums in this magazine and if you feel uncertain about a particular group or album, you might ask him to review it. If you have any questions or comments for me, please write to me at: P.O. Box 21725, San Antonio, TX 78221-0725.

May God richly bless and use you all.

Arkangel cont'd:

off with some great drum leads and lets the bass, keyboards and guitar each make their presence known. The Holy Spirit's anointing on this song was heavy as Kemper sang: "Come and dance, come and sing, come and taste of 'The Spirit. The Spirit that flows from Jesus our Lord."

Another highlight of the show was seeing David and Richard Conine do double leads with the guitar and sax. It was impressive!

Kosher, the lead screamer for the Christian hardcore punk band called One Bad Pig, shows what kind of mass appeal Arkangel's music has: "About halfway through the set I thought, 'is this the best concert I've ever seen?' I couldn't think of another concert."

For those of you who'd like to get ahold of their now out-of-print album, Arkangel has plans to re-release it soon. There is also a good possibility that they may release an EP of their previously unreleased material. If you would like to buy a rare Arkangel t-shirt, send \$4 for one or \$7 for 2 to: John Witte, 5208 Aspen, Bellaire, TX 77401.

If you'd like to help out, you can send donations to H.E.L.P. Services at: P.O. Box 1141, Humble, TX 77338.

There is a possibility that Arkangel may play another benefit in San Antonio and Austin, so you die-hards out there may have another chance to see Arkangel.

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- + KOSHER RECORDS--For those hard-to-find imports. Contact Larry Miller at 319 A, N. "J" St., Lompoc, CA 93436.
- + THE WHITE METAL SHOW!! 3rd EDITION. Demos and new/old releases played in a radio-styled format. Recipients in two countries. 90 minutes. Send \$1.00 to: White Metal Show, 25814 Booker Way, Hayward, CA 94544. (The 1st Edition is now out of print!)
- + RIZER FAN CLUB. They're supposed to be really good! We'll have an article on 'em in the future. Their demos and t-shirts are \$6 each. Write: Rizer Fan Club, 2612 W. Melvin St., A-30, Phoenix, AZ 85009.
- + THE ZINE OF THE TIMES. A radical Christian fanzine. Covers the Christian underground. (See, we're already getting prepared for the last-days' persecution in America.) Only \$5 for 6 issues. Make checks and M.O. to: David Joo, P.O. Box 33, Stirling City, CA 95978.
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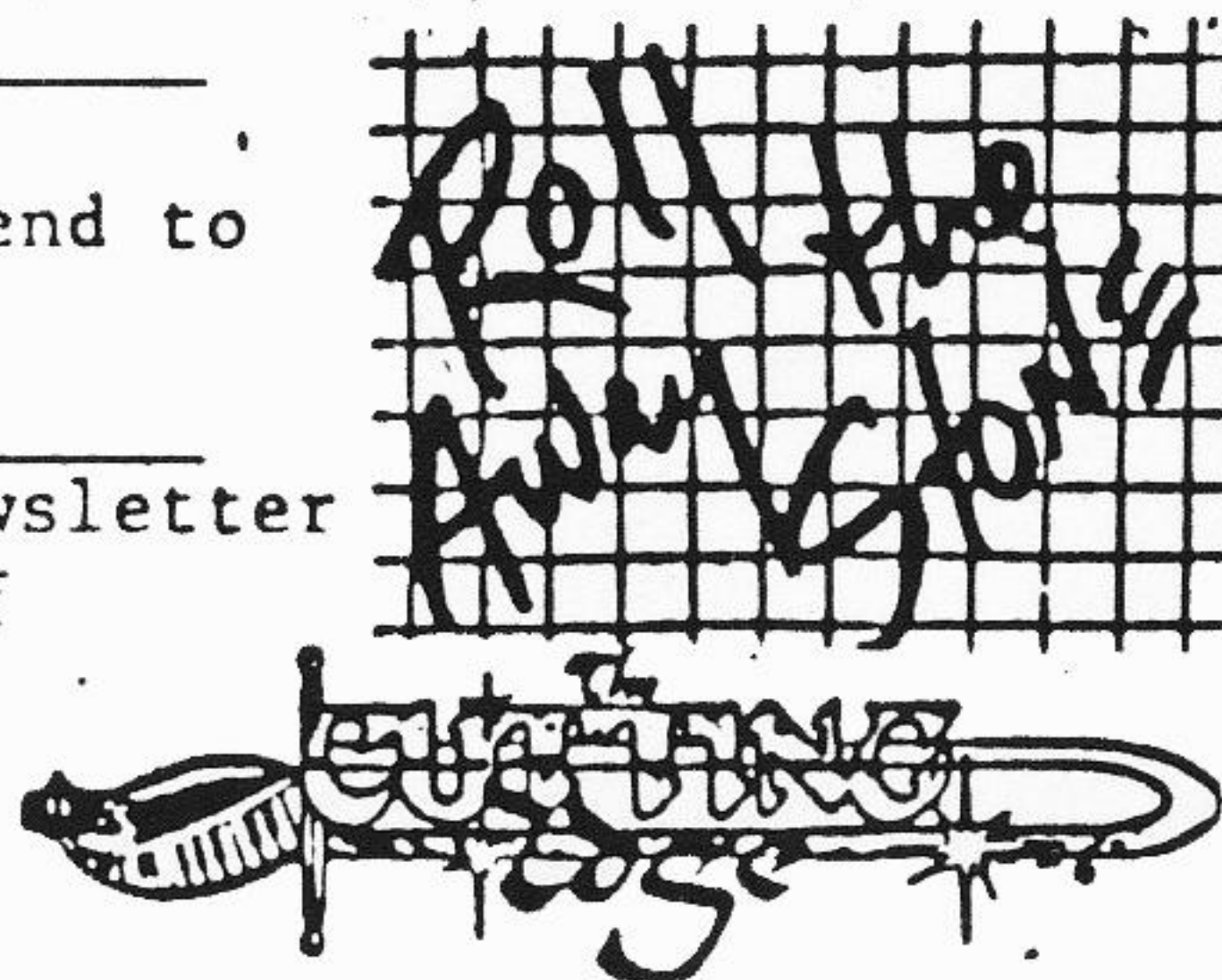
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The Mission, a really precious group of believers reaching
out in the midst of New York City, has finally released some
vinyl. It's called **Face The World**.

This group is just flowing with and singing JESUS! The
lyrics are straightforward--declaring the glorious attributes
of our risen Lord and the plan of salvation. This album
covers all the fundamentals of Christianity, the Rock, as it
were,--JESUS!

I haven't got very much space, so I'll tell you about the
best song on the album: **Face The World**. It's a smoking blues
number. It ain't 80's metal, but this song's got what rock
'n' roll is made of: da blues. Blues are the roots of rock,
and we have all the necessary ingredients here: a gutsy
guitar and a rowdy harmonica.

To get your copy, send \$7.77 plus \$1 for postage and
packing to: The Mission, 33-60 21st Street, Long Island City,
NY 11106.



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JERUSALEM

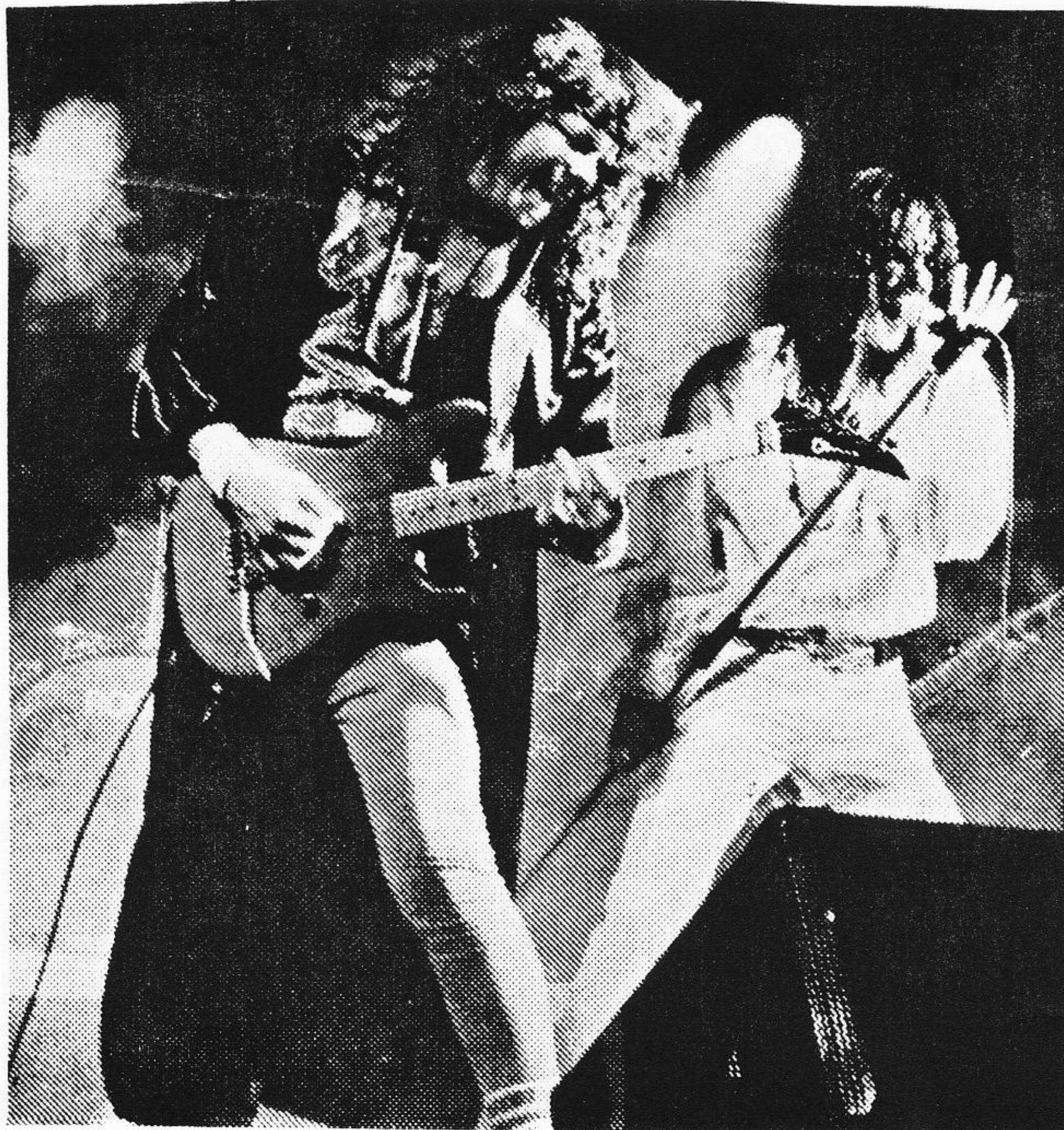
ell exhibit," Kollek said in a
view.

817 That is, about 200 feet (about 65 meters)

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Leviticus



LEVITICUS

Leviticus opened up for Twisted Sister in England this summer! They've been rocking through Europe for the past few months. These metal missionaries are making a **LOUD** and joyful noise unto the Lord.

Pure Metal Records will release **The Strongest Power** relatively soon. I saw a picture that's supposed to be on that album's cover and it looks totally powerful. There's an intimidating stack of speakers on each side of the drums. There's no doubt that they crank in concert.

—Glorious Funk Railroad?—

A man, who used to sing "We're an American band/ We come into your town, we'll help you party down/ We're an American band," is now singing for Jesus. Mark Farner, ex-Grand Funk Railroadist, is exalting Jesus' name and not Satan, drugs and sex anymore.

Kosher, of One Bad Pig, tells me that "he (Mark Farner) walked out on stage with Vision at Cornerstone. He said something like 'Jesus is Lord,' and Whoosh! The Holy Spirit fell just like that." We'll probably be hearing more from Mark in the future.

Mark has also joined Mylon Le Fevre onstage. Speaking of Mylon, he has a new guitarist that is supposed to be another Yngwie Malmsteen. It seems like we're hearing that comparison a lot these days. Check this band out in concert if you get a chance. They rock out.

—Stryken—

Stryken has issued a challenge to Motley Crue and W.A.S.P.. They've challenged these bands to appear on the Phil Donahue show with them and "be exposed."

GOLGATHA, THE BAND, CHANGES NAME.

(PTL) San Leandro, CA. Adam Alvarez's band, Golgatha, has changed their name to **Valor**. This name is a great one for a Christian band. Webster's defines valor as: "strength of mind or spirit that enables a man to encounter danger with firmness."

Golgatha has now become Golgatha Enterprises, which is a new production agency. Look for a tape by Valor soon. We'll keep you posted.



Want to subscribe? How 'bout renewing your sub? U.S. and Canada residents send \$4. European or other far off peoples, send \$8. Send to: Doug Van Pelt, 902 Mayfield Lane #107, Austin, TX 78757.

Would you like a pen-pal or the addresses of your prayer partners? Write in. Each subscriber ought to have two prayer partners. You have been matched up to pray for them and vice-versa. If you don't have two, write in.

ABORTION IS MURDER!

One way to help end this crime is to contact your doctor. Urge him or her to carry Pro-Life literature in his or her waiting room. If he or she is for abortion, you need a new doctor!

Valerie Barinov

Valerie Barinov is one of our many brothers and sisters who suffer severe physical and psychological persecution for Jesus' name sake. Some of you may have heard of his rock opera, **The Trumpet Call**.

This album was secretly recorded in the Soviet Union in 1982. Valerie's vision for his music, like so many bands over here, was to share the gospel to young people in the Soviet Union. Valerie even taught himself English and recorded his rock opera in both English and Russian.

Harold Ross, using Keston College, "I Care" Ministries and Prayer Action Campaign as his sources, tells us that it took Valerie a year to record this album.

Valerie explains, "During the recording, we rented premises in various places and equipment. When it was my turn to record the Russian version, I had lost my voice. I had only a few hours for the vocals, so, hoarseness or not, I still had to sing.

"We recorded in secret from the authorities and, in order to finish it off quickly, we each recorded singly without playing the work together (as a group). Therefore, I ask you not to judge us too severely. We thank God Almighty that He helped us to record our work to the end and in two languages, for our aim is to sound the trumpet call to the whole world."

Valerie has been in and out of prison and psychiatric wards since his arrest in 1983. He is presently serving a two and one-half years sentence in a Soviet labor camp. Some of the events leading to this are as follows:

1-24-83: Valerie and other band member arrested in Leningrad. Three cassette copies of **The Trumpet Call** were confiscated.

2-83: Valerie receives "call up" papers for the army. Soviet citizens can be called back into the army at any time. Sometimes this is used as a disciplinary measure, as in this case. Valerie is warned that if he "preaches" while in the army, he will be committed to a psychiatric hospital.

4-83: Valerie is registered as a psychiatric patient without his knowledge. This hinders him greatly with finding a good job.

6-29-83: Valerie is formally expelled from the Leningrad Baptist Church. Valerie explains the reasons this way: "My appearance—the fact that I wear blue jeans and a cross; the fact that my children were baptised in the Orthodox Church on the basis of their own faith (In the Baptist Church you are not allowed to be baptised until you reach 18.); because of our Christian rock group, **The Trumpet Call**, which has been partly responsible for a spiritual awakening among young people in our country; the fact that I do not call myself a Baptist, but a Christian. Of course it was very unpleasant for me to hear that I have been expelled, but I thank God for it, knowing that it is part of my journey in life, my cross. My only desire is to follow His holy will. Our Lord Jesus will be glorified."

10-11-83: Valerie is put into a psychiatric hospital. When his wife asked why he was in the hospital, she was told, "Your husband's views on religion differ so much from those of ordinary Soviet citizens that he needs psychiatric

treatment." He was released after nine days.

3-4-84: Valerie and another band member are arrested in Minsk for trying to "escape" the Soviet Union.

11-23-84: After a three day trial, Valerie is sentenced to a labor camp for two and one-half years. Valerie says, "My only crime is being a Christian."

Let's add Valerie and his family to our daily prayer lists. If you'd like to order a tape or record of **The Trumpet Call**, send \$10 to "I Care" Ministries, P.O. Box 1111, Franklin, TN 37064. Specify which language you want. Remember, your money supports Valerie and others like him.

Don't confuse these versions with Dave Markee's version of **The Trumpet Call**. Dave used much better equipment to record the rock opera, but it loses the emotion and feel of these original recordings. Yes, they're poorer in quality, but I think the music is better. It's closer to that old Pink Floyd sound than Dave's version.

MATRIX BECOMES BRIDE

(PIL) Westpoint, Kentucky. Matrix has been signed by the new Refuge label called **Pure Metal**. Due to the fact that there are numerous businesses and ministries called "Matrix," the band has changed their name to **Bride**.

They're working on an album, called **Show No Mercy**, which should be due out in late November. Dale tells us that it "will be straight metal—the hardest yet most tasteful the industry has seen." I've heard three of the songs and they have some excellent guitar leads in them! Matrix was, and Bride is: Dale Thompson, vocals; Troy Thompson, guitars; Steve Gilbert, drums; Steve Osbourn, guitars; and Scott Hall, bass.

"Matrix was started by my brother and I in January of '84," says Dale. "We had played together in previous small bands until I split and went to play bass for Warrior, a good Christian rock band. Troy remained a faithful roadie and explosives expert for us. I sang lead on only one song in Warrior because at the time I was new to the rock scene and was still a bit of a folk-style singer.

"I left Warrior after a year and a half for personal reasons in December of '83. In January of '84, Troy and I bumped into the ex-drummer of another Christian rock band called "Strait Gate." After that the three of us began Matrix. Steve Childers was a fantastic drummer, but after a year, school and work drew him away. He was replaced by Joey Johnson, who has been replaced Steve Gilbert."

****What would you like to say to the Heaven's Metal readers?**

"If you haven't heard us, then buy some of our material. Watch for us in the record store and write thousands of letters to Refuge Music Group and let them know we have your support.

"Heaven's Metal readers can first begin praying that we will stay strong when we play secular clubs and concerts. And that the Lord will continue pouring out His blessings on us."

The following Matrix tapes are available now: **PG-13, Monkey See, Monkey Do** and **Silent Madness**. They are all \$3.50 each. 8x10 photos are \$4. T-shirts are \$7 each. Send to: Dale Thompson, Route 1, Box 115 A, West Point, KY 40177.

If you'd like to write thousands of letters to **Pure Metal Records**, their address is: 944 Marcon Blvd., Suite 110, Allentown, PA 18103.

Saint cont'd:

"Also I feel that there's a real heavy need for Christian kids, who take their unsaved friends, not to depend so much on the band to lead their friends to the Lord. It's everybody's obligation. Everybody faces the great commission.

"Who is better qualified to lead a friend to the Lord? When you take your friend to the concert, you have that common ground. If you can lead him to the Lord, he's gonna go to church with you and you're gonna be able to help him grow. I'm gonna leave the next day. That's the difference. So the quality of having the kids' involvement, you know? I think that's something that needs to be spread throughout: kids need to get more involved with their own friends and use these concerts as a tool. God provides us with all sorts of tools, and this is simply one of them. At least our band is simply one of them. We don't have altar calls or we don't preach or anything like that at our shows. We do talk to people afterwards. We don't go hide or anything like that. We're very open about our beliefs and what have you.

"People, you can't get saved unless you face the repentance fact. Without repentance, without a good preaching message, like, say, Glenn Kaiser provides. He takes the time. He just doesn't blurt it out, 'Okay everybody. If you wanna get saved, come forward.' He takes the time and he preaches the message and that's it and then they do come forward. Those people, most of 'em, they don't just come forward to get a closer look.

"I think that everyone should witness to their friends. We're all called. A lot of musicians are just like a lot of people who wash dishes and lay carpet. You know, they're musicians. They're not necessarily called to be evangelists or ministers. These things are gifts of God. You just don't get them, but a lot of people play music and they're Christians and they feel that they can be used by God. Just likewise, if you go to work, you can talk to your friends at work. The only difference between us and a dishwasher is we get to see a lot more people at one time. We hired Brian Willis, from Quarterflash, to play the drum parts on **Time's End**. Well, he's not a Christian, but we were able to talk to him. He did a good job."

**Do you have any innovative ideas to get Saint more airplay or attention?

"Lot's of press, lot's of prayer. There's basically one set way a person makes it into the mainstream of music and that is time and money. Mostly prayer for the Christian.

"Without Enigma and Capital, Stryper and Rez wouldn't be where they're at. That's just the plain simple fact. They both got a lot of paid-off press. They've both had massive records distributed. Stryper's first album, **The Yellow And Black Attack**, they printed up like 170,000 copies and nationally and world-wide distributed them. They didn't know if they'd sell them all or not. They were just readily available. It's so much easier to just walk into a store and pick it up rather than to say 'well, I guess I better order it.' Often times we have to eat a lot of records. According to Oz Fox, they ate a lot of **The Yellow And Black Attack**."

**A few friends have commented to me about what they call the "doom and gloom" lyrics that you write. How do you respond to this?

"The thing is I like to write about both sides of The Word. When you get to **Dan 2**, it's not really about doom and gloom, that's a victorious song. 'Jesus. He rules. He reigns. He brings His people up,' but at the same time, the beast and the devil and all his dominion burn. It's very victorious. You know, 'Let's give glory to the King.'

"**Legions Of The Dead**—now that's kind of a gloomy song, because it's during the tribulation period. There's a lot of symbolism in it. 'Sea of people drowned in their sleep. Legions of the dead and the widows who weep.' That's basically an end of time's song.

"**Abyss** isn't gloomy at all. That's out of Isaiah. 'The battle happened in Heaven/ Happened a long time ago/ Don't wanna see anybody in the abyss.' It's basically a warning song.

"**Warriors Of The Son** is another victorious-type song. Jesus comes down and conquers the beast and all those that follow Jesus are going to rule and reign.

"**Vicars Of Fate** is a song that a lot of people get confused about. Its reality is it's not about the Catholic vicars, but it's about all the world's religions combined: Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, all those type of people coming in and telling you all their lies. They're end-time prophets, basically. They are ready to suck you in to their little cult.

"The whole album itself is just kind of gloomy sounding. **Time's Wasting** is a real song. It's about a friend of mine. It basically ends with 'Christ remains in waiting. Christ has paid the toll. He died for you.' I don't feel the album was doomy and gloomy. I think it just sounded that way and so people took it that way. I listen to it and somebody asked me that question and I go, 'Wow. It's really not doomy and gloomy. It's just really heavy sounding.'"

**Josh's voice sure sounds like Rob Halford.

"He just sounds like Halford. That's all there is to it. He's not even trying. On the new album there's a couple of songs where you can't tell 'em apart. I laughed when I heard it. Now he has the same growl and everything.

"When he did the first album, he'd only been singing for three weeks. Previous to that, he sang praise songs in church.

"The next record is not a whole lot different. We don't have any real 'Jesus Loves Me' songs on there. In **The Night** is about Satan and his attack on mankind. Basically the chorus goes 'Don't let him deprive you.' That explains how he is gonna come in and what he does and the way he acts." There's some really sharp and quick leads snuck in here and there.

"**Island Prisoner** is about John on Patmos. It relates to a lot of people as well." It's carried along by some good, solid drumming. The teamwork Richard mentions is evident in this song, as each instrument supports the other.

"**Space Cruiser** is about the demon ships. We feel that all those UFO's and what have you is all demonism, basically. That's what the song is about." It joins the rest of the songs on this album with its fast-paced rhythms. You know, the kind of songs that give guitarists arthritis.

"**Through You** is a very personal song about going through hard times." Richard said this song was mellow. It's only mellow to their own standards. This song probably won't crossover and appeal to any top-40 fans.

Saint cont'd yet again on page 18

◀◀LIGHTSPEED PRODUCTIONS▶▶▶

Introducing a new professional sound production company. Lightspeed Productions will be producing the upcoming Roxalt EP and also will be distributing the TNK demo tape. For further information contact Lightspeed Productions at 2814 Lake Emerald, San Antonio, TX 78222.

(The price for the TNK demo is \$5.25 plus \$1 postage and handling.)

Saint cont'd:

"**Time's End** is one of my favorite songs on the album. It's a story/ topic song. This guy finds himself with amnesia in this sewer city below all the streets. He climbs up and the beast is in control and men of metal are walking around with lasers. It's kind of a comical story, but , at the same time, it's true. At the end he realizes that he fell. He's down there and he has to not take the mark and all that." This song starts off with a great grinding rhythm with the drums high up in the mix.

"**Primed And Ready** and **Destroyers** are about the end of the world."

Primed And Ready is a plodding metal anthem. It's got some fantastic real metal leads in it. If you ever need to move furniture in your house, just crank this song up on your stereo. The music alone will blast your furniture anywhere you aim it.

Destroyers Of The World also emphasizes the fact that everybody's gonna see the end. The lyrics perfectly match the music. When I was younger, I used to think how much we needed some real intense metal to go along with the intense message of the endtimes prophecy. This song has it: "Rumors of war and of drastic changing weather/ earthquakes and famine reign on the earth forever/ Prophets of old and their warnings to the earth/ telling all mankind boldly ever since its birth."

"**Phantom Of The Galaxy** is about Satan. It's kind of a comical, satirical song." It's a high speed headbanger. John Mahan lets the neck of his guitar have it on this one. This song blazes!

Steel Killer has a really good rock 'n' roll intro to the song that is pure metal. This is the sound that has been with us since the inception of heavy metal in 1970 with Deep Purple, Led-Zeppelin, Black Sabbath and Jimi Hendrix.

"We like to provide a lot of warning. There's lots of bands that are providing the way and a lot of hope. We're not denouncing the way or the hope. As a matter of fact, we're telling people that this is really the way. This is who you gotta watch out for. Opposed to 'Jesus is the way. Ah, the other guy—don't even worry about him.'"

"The 'we're gonna beat the devil' thing that's going on in music is fine and dandy, but I think people need to be aware that Satan is very clever. He's been watching us for at least

5,000 years. He knows all the tricks. He knows what's gonna get our goat. He knows what's gonna cause us to stumble. We can't just write it off as though he's some sort of dummy. We have to really keep the shield up and watch our guard so that he can't come in and deceive us. He would be very, very thrilled to do just that. If we think that we can overcome him on our own, we really need to get on our knees a little bit harder."

A little note here: Jesus is our shield and He can't be penetrated. Period.

"We try to relate to people more than we try to tell them something. If I can relate to you, then you're gonna trust me. Then when I go to tell you something, you're gonna listen to what I have to say. As soon as you become their friend and have gotten their confidence, then you can tell them about Jesus. Because then they trust you. Rather than coming right out and slapping them in the face with it. Some people need to be slapped in the face with it though. Now, don't get me wrong, I don't wanna be misquoted as putting Bloodgood, Stryper or any of these other guys down for doing what they do. I think that what they're doing is great as well."

Saint has got new uniforms and stage, which don't look anything like the **Warriors Of The Son** look. "We've kinda modernized. Staging-wise, we don't wanna go with the regular 'Marshall-stack' look. We've invested into a stage that we can set up anywhere. Our shows are about an hour and 15 minutes or an hour and 20 minutes long. We only play album songs, so we can keep the element of surprise.

"This record, to us, has a few songs that are bubble-gummy. Then there's a few songs that are really heavy. Overall, it's a heavier record than the **Warriors Of The Son**. On our next record, John wants to go all kinds of wild. He wants to go really heavy. We're already working on the material for that."

**Do you do a lot of extrapolating or solos in concert?

"No. We don't really do a lot of that. We each have our chances to be great in the songs. We wanna be known as a team. We wanna be known as Saint, not Richard Lynch or John Mahan. People who come and see us, they come to see the band and not just individuals."



BILL VESPE

TONY TOMASELLO

JOHN P. VOLZ

JEFF NARDO

KEITH BURGIN



Radical Boy



Radical Boy are some talented musicians who are not fooling around with God's task for them. They are: Billy Vespe, drums, age 34, S.C. = White; Tony Tomasello, guitarist, age 31, S.C. = Yellow; John P. Volz, lead vocals, age 32, S.C. = Red; Jeff Nardo, bass, age 31, S.C. = Purple; Keith Burgin, keyboards, age 22, S.C. = Blue.

S.C. stands for stage color, which is subject to change; but each member of the band wears his own—each symbolizing something worn on the priests in the Old Testament robes.

They are supposed to be totally hot! Look for news from them in the future.

ESCAPE!

Escape the corruption of the world. Aren't you sick and tired of corruption? Corrupted preachers, corrupted politicians, corrupted bankers. It seems like there's corruption all around. That's because there is!

The world's been corrupt since Adam, the first man, sinned.

"And God looked on the earth, and behold, it was corrupt: for all flesh had corrupted their way upon the earth." (Genesis 6:12)

Have you ever wondered why trees die, leaves decay and bacteria spreads? All of creation itself is corrupt, only to be set free by Jesus. "...the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God." (Romans 8:21)

If creation is corrupt and all mankind is corrupt, you need to do something about it. You must receive Jesus Christ by believing that His death is the sacrifice for your sin, that He paid the penalty for your corruption.

"...to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ..." It's the righteousness of Jesus, not our righteousness. Remember? We're corrupt. Because Jesus is God, He is righteous enough to save us from corruption.

"...Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord..." The more you realize God's

love for you and the fact that He's paid for your complete salvation, the more you'll be sure of your salvation and the more inner peace you'll have.

"...seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence..." God has given us all the power to live holy lives. It is His glory, not ours, that we have been saved from corruption.

"...For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust..." By just believing in God's promises, we can have the divine power to overcome temptation and escape corruption.

"...Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love." (2 Peter 1:1-7)

Once you've escaped the corruption of the world, you're gonna love those people who are corrupt and you're gonna want to show them the escape route.



This seems like the perfect issue to mention a personnel change in Bloodgood. Isn't it neat how several themes seem to run through this issue? That's God, not my editing. Praise His Name.

Mark Welling has replaced J.T. Taylor on the drums.

Bloodgood has already begun work on their next album, which is tentatively called *Detonation*. It should be out in February.

The new concert hotline number is 1-800-458-5522.

"Stop! Pick up your phone and dial our concert hotline," says guitarist David Zaffiro.